Problems of women being trafficked

884. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the position of the problems of women being trafficked within the country;

(b) whether this problem has been taken serious cognizance by Government; and

(c) the rescue and rehabilitation measures for victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) A study commissioned by Ministry of Women and Child Development on 'Girls and Women in Prostitution in India' and conducted by Gram Niyojan Kendra, 2004, shows that significant number of women are trafficked within the country for Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Ministry of Women and Child Development runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counselling, rehabilitation and other facilities to women in difficult circumstances including victims of trafficking. A Pilot Project on combating trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation is also being implemented. A 'Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation' has been included in the Annual Plan 2007-08. The scheme has specific components for prevention of trafficking, rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation of victims. The Central Advisory Committee on combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the State's activities in combating trafficking and prostitution every quarter. The Ministry of Women and Child Development also conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitisation programme for prevention of trafficking.

Adverse impact of measures against trafficking

885. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in the case of international women trafficking, it is a fact that the measures taken have gone to the extent of harassing women coming into the country as tourists;

(b) whether there is a report by United States Government, outlining the inability of the country to curb trafficking; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per information given by Ministry of Home Affairs, there are no incidents reported on women tourists being harassed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Trafficking in Persons Report 2007 of United State Government does not adequately reflect the measures taken by Government of India through the concerned

authorities for prevention, rehabilitation, legislation and law enforcement to tackle this problem at the Central and State levels. It is also not clear what kind of input these reports are based on. There does not appear to have been an objective and informed assessment in consultation with concerned national/governmental agencies in arriving at conclusions that have been published in this internal report. This aspect has been taken up with the US Government appropriately.

Availability of aganwadi food

886. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 67 per cent of children get anganwadi food and if so, by when all the children of the country will get supplementary diet;

(b) whether Government are aware that the poorest of the poor are deprived of anganwadi food due to inaccessible area, migrant labour etc.;

(c) if so, how Government would ensure food for these most neglected sections; and

(d) in what manner, government would universalize the anganwadi supplement food for all the children, at least for the BPL families, children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme provides all the six services including supplementary nutrition to children who come to Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). As reported by the States, 54.07 % children (6 months—6 years) received supplementary nutrition (as on 31.3.2007). Further, it is the mandate of the Government, as enunciated in its National Common Minimum Program (NCMP), to universalize the ICDS Scheme to provide a functional Anganwadi in every settlement and ensure full coverage of all children, below 6 years of age.

(b) to (d) With a view to achieve an inclusive Universalisation of ICDS and to reach the most vulnerable and disadvantaged beneficiaries, the States have been addressed to furnish their requirements for additional Projects/AWCs and Mini-AWCs for the 3rd Phase of expansion of the Scheme. In doing so they have also been requested to identify SC and ST hamlets/habitations for setting up AWCs and also to ensure that no habitation/settlement with predominantly SC/ST/Minority population, is left out.

Nutrition programme of aganwadis in Jharkhand

887. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the nutrition programme of anganwadis is poorly managed in Jharkhand;

(b) whether a lot of children, who are eligible for nutritional food, are deprived of such food because of the mismanagement by the lower functionaries;